



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html

DECEMBER 8, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Court documents associated with this case are available on-line,
and may be downloaded in .pdf format at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/news2005/barros_complaint.pdf*

MASSACHUSETTS MAN CHARGED WITH TRAVELING FOR ILLICIT SEX WITH A MINOR

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Maryland man has been charged in federal court with traveling across state lines with the intent to engage in illicit sex with a minor.

Arthur Jason Barros, 36, of Leominster, Mass., was charged in a federal criminal complaint filed in U.S. Magistrate Court in Springfield on Wednesday afternoon. The complaint alleges that **Barros** traveled from Massachusetts to Missouri with the intent to engage in a sexual act with a person under 16 years of age.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, **Barros** originally contacted a 15-year-old Springfield girl via an Internet chat room, where he identified himself as a 19-year-old man. The Internet chat between **Barros** and the victim evolved into telephone conversations and sexually explicit cell phone text messaging, the affidavit says. When the victim's mother learned of the relationship, and learned that **Barros** was actually an adult, she contacted law enforcement officers on Sept. 2, 2005. According to the affidavit, **Barros** was warned not to contact the victim again.

On Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2005, the victim's mother contacted law enforcement officers again, reporting that she had come home earlier that day to find **Barros** in her home visiting her daughter. **Barros** wanted to take the victim to the mall, the affidavit says, but the victim's mother refused to let her go and asked **Barros** to leave, which he did.

Barros allegedly sent several text messages to the victim's cell phone on Wednesday

morning trying to set up a meeting with her. **Barros** was arrested Wednesday near the victim's home.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the complaint is simply an accusation, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rose Barber. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html